

*Washington, DC* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today wrote Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer Patrick R. Donahoe for the United States Postal Service (USPS), urging against the closure of nine post offices in rural parts of Ulster, Sullivan and Delaware Counties in New York. The Postal Service recently announced it is studying the potential closure of the postal stations.

"I am deeply concerned that the closing of small community Post Office facilities would undermine service to local residents," he wrote. "Many of these individuals live in areas with limited or no rural delivery. The Post Office locations highlighted for closure in this study are in areas that lack reliable public transportation and where many senior citizens and other residents have limited options for traveling to other Post Offices for their mail service. While I understand the need for USPS to implement cost savings and efficiencies, decisions regarding facility closures should not be made on the basis of which stations are self-sustaining. Maintaining Postal services and universal access to all Americans, including in our small rural communities, is a fundamental responsibility of the USPS and must be factored into any restructuring proposals."

The post offices being considered for closure include: Chichester Post Office and Spring Glen Post Office in Ulster County; Fremont Center Post Office, Highland Lake Post Office, Kenoza Lake Post Office, North Branch Post Office, Obernburg Post Office, and Pond Eddy Post Office in Sullivan County; and Fishs Eddy Post Office in Delaware County.

The full text of Hinchey's letter to the USPS follows:

August 4, 2011

Patrick R. Donahoe  
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer  
United States Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW

Washington DC 20260-0010

Dear Mr. Donahoe:

I am writing to express my concern and disappointment that the United States Postal Service is considering the closure of up to nine Post Offices in Ulster, Sullivan and Delaware Counties in New York. While I understand these facility closings are currently only in the study phase, I want to make clear my opposition to these closings, which I believe will have negative impacts on the residents of the small rural communities in which these facilities are located.

I recognize that your agency is under tremendous pressure to reduce costs and become more efficient in order to sustain itself in a changing market. However, I am deeply concerned that the closing of small community Post Office facilities would undermine service to local residents. Many of these individuals live in areas with limited or no rural delivery. The Post Office locations highlighted for closure in this study are in areas that lack reliable public transportation and where many senior citizens and other residents have limited options for traveling to other Post Offices for their mail service. While I understand the need for USPS to implement cost savings and efficiencies, decisions regarding facility closures should not be made on the basis of which stations are self-sustaining. Maintaining postal services and universal access to all Americans, including in our small rural communities, is a fundamental responsibility of the USPS and must be factored into any restructuring proposals.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter and ask to be kept informed on any decisions relating to this process.

Sincerely,

Maurice D. Hinchey